

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:
 - a distributor plate for directing fluid flow;
 - a frame surrounding said distributor plate;
 - an impervious separator layer; and
 - a seal layer between said separator layer and said ~~distribution~~ distributor plate.
2. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 including an internal manifold in said frame, said separator layer and said seal layer for delivering fluid and removing fluid from said distributor plate.
3. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said distributor plate directs fluid flow to the membrane electrode assembly of the fuel cell.
4. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 2 in which said internal manifold delivers and removes fuel gas and oxidant gas to the distributor plate.
5. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 2 in which distributor plate directs a coolant fluid flow and said internal manifold delivers to and removes from said distributor plate a

coolant fluid.

6. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame is chemically stable in the presence of the fuel cell fuel gas and oxidant gas.

7. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame is thermally stable at fuel cell operating temperature.

8. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame includes a polymer.

9. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame includes a polycarbonate material.

10. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame includes a polyvinyl material.

11. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame includes a recess on its inner periphery for accommodating the periphery of the electrode of the membrane electrode assembly.

12. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said frame includes stops for directing the fluid flow in said distributor plate.

13. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said seal layer is electrically conductive.

14. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said seal layer is thermally and chemically stable.

15. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said seal layer includes a sheet of flexible graphite.

16. (currently amended) The multipart separator plate of claim 15 in which said sheet of flexible graphite is Union Carbide Grafoil®.

17. (currently amended) The multipart separator plate of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4 in which said fuel gas includes hydrogen.

18. (currently amended) The multipart separator plate of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4 in which said fuel gas includes methanol and reformat.

19. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said separator layer includes a metal.

20. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said separator layer

includes stainless steel.

21. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 1 in which said distributor plate includes porous graphite.

22. (original) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:
a distributor plate for presenting a fuel gas to the membrane electrode assembly of a fuel cell;
a frame surrounding said distributor plate;
an impervious separator layer; and
a seal layer between said separator layer and said distributor plate.

23. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 including an internal manifold in said frame, said separator layer and said seal layer for delivering fluid and removing fluid from said distributor plate.

24. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame is chemically stable in the presence of the fuel cell fuel gas and oxidant gas.

25. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame is thermally stable at fuel cell operating temperatures.

26. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame includes a

polymer.

27. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame is a polycarbonate material.

28. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame is a polyvinyl material.

29. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame includes a recess on its inner periphery for accommodating the periphery of the electrode of the membrane electrode assembly.

30. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said frame includes stops for directing the fluid flow in said distributor plate.

31. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said seal layer is electrically conductive.

32. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said seal layer is thermally and chemically stable.

33. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said seal layer includes a sheet of flexible graphite.

34. (currently amended) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said sheet of flexible graphite is Union Carbide Grafoil®.

35. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said fuel gas includes hydrogen.

36. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said fuel gas includes methanol.

37. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said separator layer includes a metal.

38. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said separator layer includes stainless steel.

39. (original) The multipart separator plate of claim 22 in which said distributor plate includes porous graphite.

40. (original) A multipart separator plate for an electrolyzer comprising:
a distributor plate for presenting water to the membrane electrode assembly
of the electrolyzer;
a frame surrounding said distributor plate;

an impervious separator layer; and
a seal layer between said separator layer and said distributor plate.

41. (new) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:
- a distributor plate for directing fluid flow;
 - a frame surrounding said distributor plate;
 - an impervious separator layer; and
 - a flexible seal layer between said separator layer and said distributor plate.

42. (new) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:
- a distributor plate for directing fluid flow;
 - a frame surrounding said distributor plate;
 - an impervious separator layer; and
 - a sliding seal layer between said separator layer and said distributor plate.

43. (new) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:
- a porous graphite distributor plate for directing fluid flow;
 - a plastic frame surrounding said distributor plate;
 - a stainless steel separator layer; and
 - a sheet of flexible graphite forming a seal layer between said separator layer and said distributor plate.

44. (new) A multipart separator plate for a fuel cell comprising:

a first distributor plate adjacent a membrane electrode assembly, said first distributor plate for directing fluid flow;

a first frame surrounding said first distributor plate;

a first impervious separator layer;

a first seal layer between said first impervious separator layer and said first distributor plate;

a second distributor plate adjacent an opposing side of said membrane electrode assembly, said second distributor plate for directing fluid flow;

a second frame surrounding said second distributor plate;

a second impervious separator layer; and

a second seal layer between said second impervious layer and said second distribution plate.